

The Voice of Hope

A monthly publication of Home of Hope, Inc. November, 2015

*Making a difference in
the lives of men and
women with
developmental
disabilities since 1968*



"Because everyone deserves a home, a sense of belonging, and a sense of purpose in their lives."



Susan Briney was 14 years old when her world came to an abrupt halt. A bright, energetic straight-A student with all the dreams

of a teenage girl, she developed Viral Encephalitis and lost something we all cherish above almost everything else —her memory.

As any good mother would, **Betty Briney** sought desperately for a cure for her daughter. For four years she continued working with Susan at home and at school, hoping something would help bring Susan's

memory back. Nothing did. She even flew her to New York to see the doctor President Kennedy took his own father to. It was that doctor who let her know she was never going to find a cure for what had happened to Susan. Betty credits the doctor's difficult words and an exceptional woman named **Ruth Smith** with changing life both for her and for Susan.

It was in 1968, the first year Home of Hope was open, that Betty found Ruth, the home's pioneering director. Betty tells everyone that Ruth was her angel because of her calm assurance, her vision,

her belief that nothing was impossible, and her central roll in helping Susan find a home that Betty says has continued to be Susan's heaven for all these years.

Susan is 65 years old now. She may still struggle to remember things as basic as what she did this morning, but that has never kept her from living an active and enthusiastic life. She is a Special Olympian with countless medals. She is a singer, a pianist, a horseback rider, and a participant in every activity available. And her enthusiasm is obviously an inherited trait.

Now 87 years old herself, Betty still drives from Tulsa to see her daughter regularly, and when they see each other Betty still looks at Susan with the same affection of a loving mother who wants the world for her daughter. Time moves forward relentlessly. Betty lost her husband seven years ago, and she knows

(continued on page 2)



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If you would be willing to save Home of Hope money simply by agreeing to receive our newsletter electronically, please either e-mail jodi.manning@homeofhope.com or contact Jodi by phone at (918) 256-7825, ext. 135.

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(continued) that Susan will likely outlive her by decades as well. Because of that, she is even more aware of the importance of a place that can be home for Susan, surrounded by friends who love her. Betty does have regrets. She wishes the world had known more about the counseling needs of families when Susan's three younger siblings lived this all out alongside of her and her husband. She knows they went through a lot, and that it was a struggle for them to see what was happening with their big sister. All in all though, Betty speaks as someone who is thankful that despite the overwhelming challenges her daughter was able to find a place to belong, and in Susan's case, a place where the activities can keep up with her energy level. No parent would ever choose the path for her daughter that Susan has traveled. But as Betty puts it; "Everything worked out because of Ruth and my God." We're honored to be part of working with people like Susan and her mom. Thank you for all you do to make it possible.



Have you remembered Home of Hope in your will?



Promoting Choices, Independence,
and a Meaningful Way of Life

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FINANCIAL CORNER: WHAT YOU DON'T WANT ANYMORE CAN CHANGE A LIFE!

Last month I shared some of the exciting news about all that is going on at our thrift stores and distribution center. These really are life changing places for the men and women in our programs. But they only make the difference they were designed to make with the help of our customers and those who donate everything from clothing to household items and furniture. Come shop or donate items at any of our locations: **Vinita:** 435 S. Wilson - **Miami:** 3 N. Main - **Claremore:** 117 N. Missouri - **Pryor:** 303 E. Graham - **Chetopa, Kansas:** 514 Maple - **Vinita Distribution Center & Last Stop Shop:** 1300 Industrial Drive

Meanwhile, your donation of that **used vehicle** you were thinking of trading in can make a significant difference for us as well. Minivans and larger express vans are a continual need. If you have any vehicle to donate and want to make a difference for Home of Hope, contact **Joe Foss** at (918) 256-7825, ext. 191 or email joe.foss@homeofhope.com.

